

DISTRIBUTION OF PACKETS TO FOREIGN AGENTS  
USING MULTICAST PROTOCOLS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A wireless communications system includes a mobile unit having a home network and a home agent in the home network. The system also includes foreign networks with foreign agents that provide wireless services to the mobile unit when the mobile unit travels outside of the service area of the home network. Foreign agents providing or likely to provide services for the mobile unit receive information for communication to the mobile unit by registering for a multicast group associated with the mobile unit. The home agent distributes information for communication to the mobile unit by encapsulating the information in multicast packets and communicating these packets for reception by the foreign agents registered for the multicast group.